

Statement by  
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On the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Request for  
Department of Education Programs Serving  
Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians

Delivered before the  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
March 5, 2002

Mr. Corwin is accompanied by  
Cathie Martin  
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U.S. Department of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My colleague, Cathie Martin, and I are pleased to appear before you to discuss the fiscal year 2003 budget request for major Department of Education programs that serve American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

The Bush Administration is strongly committed to ensuring that American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians receive every opportunity to achieve to high academic standards. The recently enacted No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 focuses on improving academic achievement by ensuring that all children can read by the end of third grade, improving teacher quality through high-quality professional development and innovative teacher recruitment and retention practices, increasing accountability for student achievement, and placing a stronger emphasis on teaching methods grounded in scientifically based research. Native American students will benefit from these initiatives, and many programs at the Department of Education help to ensure that Indian students have full access to these and other reforms to improve education. The 2003 budget request includes a number of programs and initiatives that focus specifically on helping Indian students achieve.

American Indians have made educational progress in recent decades, but continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty, low educational attainment, and fewer educational opportunities than other students. For example, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, in 2000, only 17 percent of American Indian fourth-graders scored at or above the proficient level in reading compared to 40 percent of white students and 32 percent of all students. In addition, although American Indians have made progress on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, moving from a composite score of 938 in 1991 to 960 in 2001, they are 100 points behind white students who had a composite score of 1060, and 60 points behind all students who had a composite score of 1020.

The 2003 budget request for Department of Education programs serving Indians supports the President's commitment to providing more resources to help implement the

No Child Left Behind Act and improve educational opportunities for all students, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

### **Indian Education Programs**

Our request for the Department's Indian Education programs is \$122.4 million, an increase of \$2 million over the 2002 level. These programs include formula grants to school districts, competitive programs, and national activities to further research and evaluation on the educational needs and status of the Indian population.

#### Indian Education - Grants to Local Educational Agencies

We are requesting \$97.1 million for the Indian Education formula grants to local educational agencies, the same as the 2002 level. This program is the Department's principal vehicle for addressing the unique educational and culturally related needs of Indian children. Grants supplement the regular school program, helping Indian children improve their academic skills, raise their self-confidence, and participate in enrichment programs and activities that would otherwise be unavailable. The requested level would provide an estimated per-pupil payment of \$209 for approximately 465,000 students.

#### Special Programs for Indian Children

Our request for Special Programs for Indian Children is \$20 million, the same as the 2002 level. These funds will be used for three activities.

Approximately \$12.3 million will support an estimated 43 Demonstration grants that promote school readiness for Indian preschool children and increase the potential for learning among American Indian and Alaska Native students.

In addition, the 2003 request will provide approximately \$7.2 million to continue the American Indian Teacher Corps initiative, which trains Indian college students to become teachers, places them in schools with concentrations of Indian students, and provides professional development and in-service support as they begin teaching. In addition, the program will provide professional development to teachers already in the field so that they can work more effectively with their Indian students.

We are also requesting funds to continue the companion American Indian Administrator Corps. Grantees funded under this activity recruit, train, and provide in-service professional development to American Indians to become effective school administrators in schools with high concentrations of Indian students.

#### National Activities

We are requesting \$5.2 million for research, evaluation, and data collection activities related to Indian Education. This is a \$2 million increase over the current level.

The Department has used the National Activities appropriation to craft a comprehensive research agenda for Indian education. We completed and publicly released that agenda last November, and now would use the 2003 funding for the first major investments in implementing that agenda. The agenda responds to the major national need for better information on the educational status and needs of Indian

students, and for scientifically based research on what works most effectively in meeting the educational needs of this population.

Historically, educational research involving American Indian and Alaska Native students has been limited in applicability because of small sample size and the resulting inability to generalize from the results. We are proposing, in fiscal year 2003, to begin a large-scale study involving representative samples that will establish baseline data on academic achievement and retention of American Indian and Alaska Native students. The purpose of the study will be to gather enough data about Native students and their families, schools, and communities to permit comparisons among students of different tribes and different demographic and cultural backgrounds in order to provide information on the effectiveness of educational programs and to identify successful practices. Another part of the study would examine the effectiveness of educational programs that incorporate Native language and culture. Fiscal year 2003 funds would also be used to continue research grants and data collections initiated in earlier years.

In addition to the Indian Education programs, the Department also supports the education of Indians through other programs.

### **Title I: Education for the Disadvantaged**

#### Title I Grants to LEAs

Title I provides supplemental education funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools, especially in high-poverty areas, to help some 15 million disadvantaged students, including an estimated 237,000 Indian children and youth, learn to the same high standards as other students. With Title I, these students have the benefit of, for example, extra instruction at all grade levels, extended-day kindergarten programs, learning laboratories in math and science, and intensive summer programs. States are required to create a framework to integrate Title I with State and local reforms stressing high performance for all children. In addition, the No Child Left Behind Act requires stronger accountability for helping all students, including Indian students, make adequately yearly progress toward State standards.

The Department has requested a \$1 billion increase for Title I Grants to LEAs in 2003, for a total of \$11.4 billion. Under the statute, the BIA and Outlying Areas receive 1 percent of Title I Grants to LEAs. The BIA share of the set-aside would be approximately \$76 million, 10 percent more than the 2002 level. These funds will serve more than 50,000 Indian children, in addition to those served in regular public schools.

In addition, consistent with proposed legislation governing pension and annuitant health care costs for Federal employees, the Department is requesting an additional \$2.9 million in Title I funds for pension and health care costs for employees in BIA schools. These retirement costs are currently financed from a centralized government account.

#### Reading First State Grants

Reading First is a new comprehensive effort to implement the findings of high-quality scientifically based research on reading and reading instruction. It is one of the Administration's highest priorities for education. Providing consistent support for reading

success from the earliest age has critically important benefits. Under this formula program, the BIA will receive 0.5 percent of the State Grants appropriation. Our 2003 budget request of \$1 billion would provide approximately \$5 million to BIA schools for this important program.

#### Comprehensive School Reform

The Comprehensive School Reform program provides schools with funding to develop or adopt, and implement, comprehensive school reforms, based on scientifically based research and effective practices. These reforms are designed to enable children, including Indian children, to meet challenging State standards. The Department may reserve up to 1 percent for grants to BIA Schools and the Outlying Areas.

Under the Department's fiscal year 2003 request of \$235 million, approximately \$1.6 million would go to the BIA to support school reform activities.

#### Even Start

Even Start is an educational program for low-income families that is designed to improve the academic outcomes of parents and their young children, including Indian families, by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy, parenting education, and interactive parent and child literacy activities. The Department is requesting \$200 million for Even Start in 2003, which would provide approximately \$3 million for competitive grants for Even Start programs conducted by Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

#### Literacy Through School Libraries

The new Literacy Through School Libraries program provides funds to help eligible LEAs provide students with increased access to up-to-date library materials and professionally certified school library media specialists. This program, newly created by the No Child Left Behind Act, is intended to help high-poverty school districts provide students with high-quality library services. The BIA receives 0.5 percent of the total funding. The 2003 request of \$12.5 million would thus provide the BIA with an allocation of \$62,500.

### **Improving Teacher Quality State Grants**

The President's budget request emphasizes the importance of good teaching for all students. The Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program provides flexible funds to State and local educational agencies to develop and support a high-quality teaching force through activities that are grounded in scientifically based research. Funds are used to strengthen the skills and knowledge of teachers and administrators to enable them to improve student achievement in the core academic subjects and for teacher and principal recruitment, development, and retention. The No Child Left Behind Act created this program by consolidating the former Eisenhower Professional Development and Class-Size Reduction programs. Under the statute, the BIA receives a set-aside of 0.5 percent.

The Department's fiscal year 2003 request of \$2.85 billion would provide the BIA with an allocation of almost \$14.2 million.

## **Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities**

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program is designed to help create and maintain drug-free, safe, and orderly environments for learning in and around schools by supporting effective, research-based approaches to drug and violence prevention. Of the appropriation for State grants, 1 percent or \$4.75 million (whichever is greater) is reserved for drug and violence prevention programs serving Indian children in BIA-operated or -supported schools, and 0.2 percent is reserved for programs serving Native Hawaiians.

The 2003 budget request of \$472 million for Safe and Drug-Free Schools includes \$4.75 million for the BIA and \$994,000 for Native Hawaiian programs.

### **Impact Aid**

#### **Basic Support Payments**

Impact Aid provides financial assistance to school districts affected by Federal activities. The Basic Support Payments program is the primary vehicle for providing assistance for general operating expenses to many LEAs that educate Indian children. The 2003 budget request of \$982.5 million would provide approximately \$462 million to support the education of almost 128,000 children living on Indian lands.

#### **Payments for Children with Disabilities**

Impact Aid Payments for Children with Disabilities help federally affected school districts to provide the special education services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for federally connected children, including children residing on Indian lands. The budget request of \$50 million would provide approximately \$21 million for services to approximately 18,700 children living on Indian lands.

#### **Construction**

The Impact Aid Construction program provides formula and competitive funds to support school construction and renovation in school districts that educate federally connected students or have federally owned land. Under the budget request, \$9 million in formula grants will go to districts on behalf of students residing on Indian lands. Funds can be used for such purposes as construction and renovation of school facilities and debt service related to the construction of school facilities. In addition, districts with high concentrations of students living on Indian lands would be eligible for \$27 million in competitive construction grants.

### **English Language Acquisition**

English Language Acquisition programs (formerly Bilingual Education) support the education of limited English proficient students through a new formula grant program that makes grants to States to help ensure that those students learn English and meet the same high academic standards as all other students. The No Child Left Behind Act established a 0.5 percent or \$5 million (whichever is greater) set-aside for schools operated predominantly for Native American and Alaska Native children. The 2003 budget request would include \$5 million for these schools. In addition, the Department

estimates that approximately \$50 million in English Language Acquisition State formula grant funds would serve Indian students enrolled in public schools.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program enables communities to establish or expand centers that provide activities offering extended learning opportunities (such as before- and after-school programs) for students and related services to their families. The No Child Left Behind Act converted this activity from a national competition to a State formula grant program, with State educational agencies making competitive subgrants within their States. The Department may reserve up to a total of 1 percent for grants to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Outlying Areas. The fiscal year 2003 request of \$1 billion would provide approximately \$7 million to the BIA.

### **Education Technology State Grants**

The Education Technology State Grants program supports efforts to integrate technology into curricula to improve teaching and learning. By statute, three-quarters of 1 percent of the amount available for States is reserved for schools operated or funded by the BIA. The Department is requesting \$700 million for the program, which would provide approximately \$5.1 million for BIA schools.

### **Grants for State Assessments**

The Grants for State Assessments program helps States develop and implement the additional assessments required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Under the funding formula, 0.5 percent of the appropriation is reserved for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For 2003, the Administration is requesting \$387 million for this program, \$1.85 million of which would go to the BIA.

### **Education for Native Hawaiians**

We are requesting \$18.3 million for Education for Native Hawaiians. These funds support a wide array of education services to improve the educational status of Native Hawaiians, including curriculum development, teacher training and recruitment, higher education, special education, community-based learning centers, family-based education, and gifted and talented programs.

### **Alaska Native Education Equity**

We are requesting \$14.2 million for Alaska Native Education Equity. These funds support an array of education services to improve the educational status of Alaska Natives, including student enrichment, preschool programs, teacher training and recruitment, and curriculum development.

### **Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Secretary is required to transfer 1 percent of the appropriation for Education for Homeless Children and Youth to the BIA for services to Indian students in BIA-operated and funded schools. Our 2003

budget request of \$50 million includes \$500,000 for the BIA to provide services to homeless children and youth to enable them to attend and excel in school.

### **Vocational Education**

Vocational Education State Grants, authorized under the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, support education programs designed to develop the academic, vocational, and technical skills of students in high schools and community colleges. From the appropriation, 1.25 percent is set aside for competitive grants to federally recognized Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native entities, and 0.25 percent is for grants to organizations that serve and represent Native Hawaiians. Under the budget request of \$1.18 billion, the Department would award approximately \$14.75 million to 35 Indian tribes or tribal organizations and approximately \$2.95 million to one or more Native Hawaiian organizations.

### **Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Vocational and Technical Institutions**

This program, also authorized by the Perkins Act, provides competitive grants for the operation and improvement of tribally controlled postsecondary vocational and technical institutions. Funds provide continued and expanded educational opportunities and training for Indian students attending those institutions and for institutional support. Under the budget request, the Department would provide \$6.5 million, the same as the fiscal year 2002 level, for these institutions.

### **Higher Education Aid for Institutional Development**

The Aid for Institutional Development programs, under Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, are designed to strengthen institutions of higher education that enroll large proportions of minority students and students from low-income backgrounds. The programs provide financial assistance to help institutions solve problems that threaten their ability to survive, improve their management and fiscal operations, build endowments, and make effective use of technology.

The Strengthening Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) program authorizes 1-year planning and 5-year development grants that enable these institutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve American Indian students. Under the budget request, the Department would award \$18.1 million for activities to strengthen TCCUs, an increase of 3.6 percent over the current level. In the past two years, a portion of funds has supported construction and renovation activities, and the fiscal year 2003 budget request would provide funds for an estimated 6 construction and renovation projects.

The Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions program authorizes 1-year planning and 5-year development grants that enable these institutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students. The Department's 2003 budget request includes \$6.7 million, an increase of 3.6 percent over the current level.



## **Special Education**

### Grants to States

The Special Education Grants to States program provides formula grants to meet the excess costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities. From the total appropriation, 1.226 percent is allocated to the BIA to serve children with disabilities on reservations. Of the funds reserved, 80 percent is used for the education of children 5-21 years old and 20 percent is distributed to tribes and tribal organizations for the education of children 3-5 years old.

Under the budget request of \$8.5 billion, a \$1 billion (13.3 percent) increase, the Department would provide approximately \$81.2 million to BIA to serve approximately 8,500 Indian students.

### Grants for Infants and Families

The Grants for Infants and Families program provides formula grants to assist States in implementing statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programs to make available early intervention services to all children with disabilities, aged birth through 2, and their families. An amount equivalent to 1.25 percent is allocated to the BIA. Under the 2003 budget request, the BIA would receive approximately \$5.4 million, a 4.8 percent increase over FY 2002.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation**

The Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program provides services designed to help persons with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment to the extent of their capabilities. Nationally, this program provides services to about 8,000 American Indians with disabilities each year. In addition, the Rehabilitation Act requires that between 1.0 percent and 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the State Grants program be set aside for competitive grants to Indian tribes to provide vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians with disabilities living on or near reservations. For 2003, the Department requests approximately \$2.6 billion for the State Grants program, an increase of 5.4 percent. The amount set aside for grants to Indian tribes would be approximately \$26.8 million and would fund a total of approximately 69 projects.

## **Conclusion**

The 2003 budget request for Department of Education programs serving Indians supports the President's overall goal of ensuring educational opportunities for all students, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee. My colleague and I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have.